

ious booty taken by the Allies is additional proof.

In France the greatest gains of territory have been made by the British at the points where the resistance of the Germans has been most obstinate. At Ghent, for example, which was taken to-day, the British advance in three days has been more than eight miles on a thirty mile front.

Of even greater importance than the retreat from western Belgium are the British and French drives toward Valenciennes and Hirson, the objective of which is the railroad that connects those places and continues eastward into Germany. Marked progress was made to-day in this operation, in which American troops are playing an important part. The Germans have been driven behind the Sambre Canal on a wide front. The Sells has been crossed in force and the Allies are approaching the Forest of Mormal, which guards the Valenciennes-Avesnes section of the railroad.

TWO MILE GAIN MADE BY AMERICAN FORCES

Enemy Resists Desperately in Sectors East of Le Cateau.

By the Associated Press.

WESTERN ALLIED ARMIES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Oct. 19.—The bewildered and shattered German hordes have continued to give ground all day long under the sustained pressure by the British, French, Belgian and American troops. Indications received at headquarters are that the German army believes it is being withdrawn entirely from France and Belgium.

In the center of the front the Germans were retreating so fast to-day that contact, if maintained at all, was only between advanced patrols and small groups of the enemy. On the flanks, however, there has been hard fighting. In Belgium the Allies have been engaged in severe encounters, but nevertheless they have gained additional miles of ground.

In the area north and south of Le Cateau fighting of most furious nature is reported, and the Americans have again distinguished themselves. By dark last night they had penetrated to a depth of two miles. They made further progress to-day against strong opposition. The Germans here had orders to hold the line at all costs and the Americans and British had literally to hack their way through.

The enemy divisions have been well whipped, and from prisoners it is learned that no reserves are back of them because retirement in this section of the line is expected to take place as soon as the other divisions to the north get far enough back.

North of Le Cateau the British have been engaged in equally hard fighting. Here also the Germans had to be ridged before they would give ground, but hosts now have been established by the Allies east of the Sambre River and some ground has been gained southeast of Weavily.

Reliable information received from the other side of the line indicates that the German retreat will carry the enemy back many miles, if not all the way to Germany itself. Many prisoners captured on different parts of the line corroborate each other by asserting that Belgium and France are in process of evacuation.

One prisoner said that all leave had been stopped fourteen days ago, "so that material and troops from Belgium could be moved back to Germany."

From another source comes the information that all military material has been moved from Ghent to Antwerp and sent to Germany, "as France and Belgium are to be evacuated within a month."

Guns from the Belgian coast are

known to have reached Antwerp, but at the moment it is not certain whether they have gone beyond that city. Air material has been transferred from Ghent to Brussels. Detailed reports are coming in respecting several lines of German defenses, but none of these lines seems to be of more than a temporary nature and no concrete has been used in their construction. The principal lines are reported to be along the Scheldt-Ghent Canal and the Scheldt River.

New Bridges Across Meuse.

Forty bridges have been thrown across the Meuse in the neighborhood of Huy, southwest of Liege, and the sources from which this information is derived say that these are in preparation for the retreat of the Germans behind their own frontiers.

The country from which the Germans are withdrawing offers striking proof of German brutality and destructiveness. When they retired from a town the civilians were informed that they need have no fear of remaining there, as the town would not be shelled. On this promise many civilians remained, but the Germans departed totally out of bounds for all British and allied troops and sentries have been placed about to make sure that no military person not properly authorized enters.

Mines and Factories Destroyed.

Preliminary reconnaissances in vast stretches of recaptured territory show that in addition to the destruction of military establishments the Germans before departing went to the length of destroying and demolishing every factory and all mines. In many houses the Germans placed "booby" traps and incendiary machines, which apparently were designed as much for civilians as for soldiers, according to the official belief. In some cases kitchen ranges have been found with all preparations made for starting a fire, with deadly grenades cunningly hidden within. In other cases grenades have been suspended by strings in chimneys and stovepipes.

The British armies have had previous experience with such appliances and therefore have not been caught. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are in the towns where the Allied troops are operating and advancing, and hundreds have been released from each town liberated by the advance. The presence of these civilians necessitates the greatest care in the handling of shells and bombs, and it is probable that the Germans have left them behind just for this purpose.

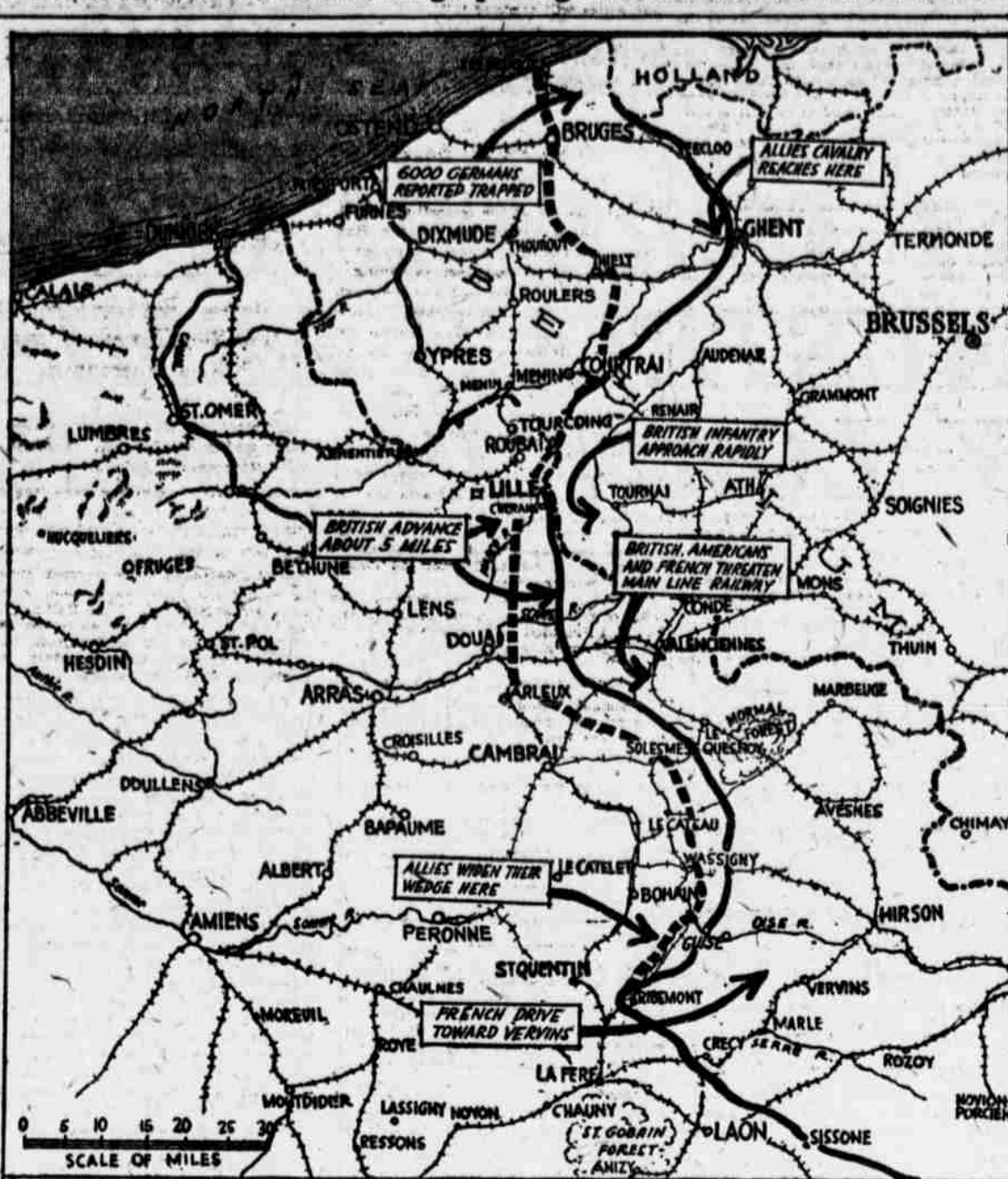
All the bridges have been blown up by the retreating enemy, and because of this the people of Tourcoing and Roubaix are experiencing some difficulty in getting food. Supplies are now being shipped into Lille for the large population there.

The Germans are also leaving the country from which they are being driven driven with land mines. The towns of Chereng, Hamy, Vred and Catelet have been captured by the Allied forces.

The British are advancing rapidly astride the Lille-Tourcoing railway. All the bridges over the Marais, south of Chereng, are intact, the Germans having fled so fast they did not have time to destroy them.

South of Douai the British have reached the outskirts of Aubercourt, Pecqueur and many civilians were liberated in these towns. Advance patrols

Where Allies Are Cleaning up Belgium and Northern France



VERY rapid progress is being made by the Germans in their retreat from Flanders and northern France, which has been greatly accelerated by strong pressure from the allied forces pressing closely on the rear of the Kaiser's troops. Patrols or advance guards of allied cavalry have reached Ghent and Ecclo, with strong infantry forces not far behind them, advancing with all possible speed. It is expected that the front of these infantry columns will reach those places by this morning.

are in continual touch with small parties of the enemy.

Fires in Douai which had been smoldering since the capture of the town, broke out anew to-day. The fires were quickly put out by the soldiers.

The Germans are making vigorous efforts to remove as much material as possible from the Belgian coast. However, they are under a heavy bombardment from sea and land. The Belgian gunners are handicapped somewhat on

So rapid has been the advance of the Allies' troops that a large force of Germans, said to be 6,000, has been trapped between them and the Dutch frontier northeast of Bruges.

To the south in the Lille-Douai region the British are driving forward with great vigor to cut the main supply railway of the Germans in the vicinity of Valenciennes. Still further south a similar drive is being made by the French toward Vervins and Hirson.

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OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE FIGHTING

Belgians Recover Many More Villages in Flanders.

LONDON, Oct. 19.—Following are the official reports of operations in France and Belgium, as issued by the several war offices:

BRITISH (NIGHT).—This morning the British and American forces operating in conjunction with the French between the Oise River and Le Cateau continued their advance with success. Our troops have reached the west bank of the Sambre and Oise Canal north of Olay and gained possession of the high ground west of Catillon. In the operations in the past three days in this sector the troops of Gen. Rawlinson's Fourth Army have completed an advance of from five to eight miles across difficult country which the enemy defended with tenacity.

Having driven the enemy on the first day of their attack from strong positions held by him on the right bank of the Sambre, by determined and persistent fighting they have successfully cleared the whole of the high ground east of the river line, capturing many villages in the course of their advance, together with more than 5,000 prisoners and a number of guns.

The enemy has commenced to withdraw north of the Cambrai road. Saulsot has been occupied by our troops and progress has been made toward Denain from the south.

North of the Sambre Canal our troops already have entered Denain and reached the villages of Ecaudin and Somlain. To the left of these troops the Eighth Division has taken Marchiennes.

During the last ten days the troops of this division, which have been continuously in the line for a long period and on a wide front, have maintained unceasing pressure on the enemy, and by their energy and activity their pursuit has greatly harassed his retreat.

In the course of their advance of more than eighteen miles they have captured several hundred prisoners and taken the town of Douai, besides many villages.

Further north our troops are steadily continuing their advance. They have reached the general line of Orchies, Coblentz, Bourghelles and Templeuve, and southeast of Roubaix, the village of Nechin.

BRITISH (DAY).—We made progress yesterday evening northeast of Eohain, capturing the village of Maxinghen and completing the capture of Bazel.

North of the Sambre Canal the advance continues. We have driven the German rear guards from Emerchicourt and Pecqueur and are in contact with the enemy east of Vred and Catelet.

Further north our advance detachments have crossed the Mareq River between Sainghin and Chereng and are approaching the latter village.

FRENCH (NIGHT).—On the Oise front the enemy was completely repulsed. East of the Oise our troops have advanced along the canal from Olay to Hauteville. They occupied the forest of Andigny and the villages of Etreat and Venerolles, and continued with their right wing the pursuit of the enemy begun yesterday between the Oise and La Fere.

The First Army achieved new successes to-day. Rivecourt and the position dominating Villers-la-See fell into our hands. More to the east we went beyond Fais-la-Noyers and Catillon de Temple.

On the Serre front the Tenth Army started an attack this morning on the Hunting line in the region of Pouilly and the marshes of Nisbonne on a front

of five kilometers. This position, which was powerfully organized and comprised two lines of trenches protected by a network of barbed wire and provided with numerous concrete dugouts, was forced by our troops, who broke the enemy's stubborn resistance. We realized an advance 1,500 meters in depth. The village and four mill of Versuill, the Athlustrud farm and Fay la Sec are in our hands. The number of prisoners taken runs into the thousands.

West of Barenton Rivulet enemy counter attacks, carried out by important effectives who had received the order to hold on at all costs, have been repulsed with heavy losses.

Between Sissonne and Chateau Porcien the fight has not been less spirited. Local attacks brought us appreciable progress. We have reached the road from Sissonne to La Seive and have carried several fortified works.

More to the east we held Bethancourt, Espagne, Tinal and Compiers. Between these villages and Nialle-Comte and west of Chateau Porcien our troops also came into contact with the Hunting line. Our troops attacked after a short artillery preparation and took St. Germainmont. Seven hundred prisoners were taken in the course of this fighting.

In the region of Vouziers the battle continued the whole day with extreme stubbornness. On the Heights east of the Aisne we have taken after a hard struggle, the Macquart Farm and Hill 192, east of Vandy. More to the south we captured the village of Chetres, and went far beyond this village. We took more than 40 prisoners and captured 10 cannon and some machine guns.

FRENCH (DAY).—During the night the troops of the First Army pursued their victorious advance and threw back in disorder the enemy troops, who attempted, at all costs to maintain their position on the west bank of the Oise. Up to the present the French have reached the canal from east of the forest of Andigny to the north of Hauteville, Hannappes, Tupigny and Noyales are in our hands, as well as other places bordering on the canal.

In the fighting in this region since October 17 we have taken more than 8,000 prisoners. We also have captured twenty guns, a large number of machine guns and important war material, including an entire train loaded with munitions.

On the front of the Aisne we have cleared out the enemy from the region between the canal and the Aisne west of Attigny. We have taken possession of Ambly-Haut and have captured prisoners.

BELGIAN.—In the course of the day we continued to pursue the enemy. We have occupied Zeebrugge and Bruges and passed the Bruges-Ost canal and made progress toward Antwerp.

GERMAN (NIGHT).—In Flanders

and on the battlefield between Le Cateau and the Oise the day was quiet. North of Losen enemy attacks failed. Northeast of Vouziers enemy detachments have established themselves on the eastern bank of the Aisne.

In the Meuse sector there is nothing to report.

GERMAN (DAY).—Between Bruges and the River Lys we repulsed several enemy attacks. Northeast of Courtrai we threw back across the river detachments of the enemy which had maintained positions on the east bank of the river since the recent fighting.

Southwest of Courtrai attacks to effect a crossing of the river were frustrated. East of Lille and Douai the enemy followed up yesterday as far as the line of Acoq-Templeuve-Fines-Marquette.

Between Le Cateau and the Oise violent enemy attacks continued. Southeast of Le Cateau he advanced as far as Bazel, and in the forest of Andigny as far as the southern edge of Wassy. On the rest of the wide attacking front the enemy assaults broke down before and in our foremost lines. Bazel was recaptured by storm troops. At and south of Aisnevillle we again beat off enemy attacks. In the evening and at night we withdrew our line here.

The Oise renewed attacks of the enemy at and north of Origny broke down.

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